

(Washington, D.C.) Congressman Tim Ryan (OH-17) applauded the President's signature of the 2009 omnibus appropriations bill yesterday. The bill contained a provision that would help make birth control more affordable for millions of women who wish to obtain contraceptives at community health centers and college clinics. Congressman Ryan, a member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee, took an active role in ensuring that the provision was included in the bill. In 2005, Congress inadvertently cut off community health centers and college health centers from obtaining contraceptives at low cost when they passed the Deficit Reduction Act.

"I am proud that we were able to fix this error, which caused lower income families and college students to pay up to 10 times more for basic contraception than other patients," said Congressman Tim Ryan. "Access to low-cost contraception is a key component in our effort to reduce the number of abortions in this country."

Congressman Ryan worked in concert with Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee David Obey, as well as Congressman Joseph Crowley, Republican Congressman Mark Kirk, Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky and Congressman Adam Schiff to pass the provision.

"This bi-partisan effort is a step towards putting aside the old, stale arguments of the past," said Congressman Ryan. "It is time we work towards common sense solutions that are in the best interests of our families and the health of women everywhere."

